

H.M. the Sultan of Johore is building Istana at the thriving town of Muar. It is situated near the beach, and will form

used to coasting and other vessels. The houses are being erected at Teluk Pangkajene—*Strait Times*.

The report to the *Hopong*, the present coasts (Singapore) authorities, 16 m. distant, connected to be on the verge of bankruptcy. One of them has already ascended, and another has failed. Since their contractors collect the opium tolls, smuggling has been carried on more extensively, and the farmers are suffering from drought. They cost nearly as much money has been lost. They pay now to pay ten per cent., of what they owe the banks, and promise to pay the balance next year, but the banks would not agree these conditions, as the farmers are so poor. The *Straits Times* says "Our coast poetry, however, states that it did wholly credit this rumor, but it is published as an item of news."

The following "Note from the Kampar papers," the *Singapore Free Press*:—"Some laughs at Mr O'Connor's knowledge to the departed Celestial so as to know again should be return to his 'wallowing mire.' The idea is a very sensible one photographically; it is known, equally as false, as to serious mischief. To me no ill will comes from the remark on the forehead, as I have seen murder burnt or healed, as an Indian Currier, but, under the pit of the left arm. In the Chinese quarter of a century ago, the Quaker brand arrow was done in blue on the cheek of a man who had murdered a woman I saw in the prison there, had cut the knife to do away with the mark; he had only made his case worse by leaving a sure and certain proof behind. It is to find fault and criticize, but this does amount to much, unless something is propounded.

The charge which some one at Aden made in the *Paris Times* (says the *Aden Gazette*) against English agents on Social Coast of having incited the natives to revolt against the British Government is absurd enough. There is a tolerant numbers foreign colony at Aden, and just possible that there may be someone there wise enough to believe that Political Department have in their agent's *procurement* of arms and ammunition for the natives. We remember also that

of the French papers like the young gentlemen at Dr. Blimber's Academy, are in the habit of addressing letters to themselves, and we should not like to assert the possibility of the Aden from which the ingenious suggestion emanated, being where in the neighborhood of the Boulevard. But the Temps ought to be informed that there are other accounts of the operation which represent the provocation as having had a French and not an English origin. One account of the matter which has a

credence along the Coast is that the marauding parties are engaged in retaliation for violence offered them by the Ambadu people. Another view is that it arose out of what may be euphemistically called an exchange difficulty. Some months before, the story goes, some Somali had stolen a sheep or two belonging to a party of French, who had landed in the neighbourhood, and the French in retaliation took the opportunity a little later of acquiring in a not strictly commercial way a number of Somali camels much more

equivalent to the snare or which they have been deprived. Then came the retaliation. As to the suggestion that English agents are taking a part in the French upon the Coast, our information is that the French are exercising a free hand there—so free a hand indeed for the conservation of interests and the maintenance of authority. People are becoming, as a result after the fact, and it is now asked whether it would not have been wiser to have been more moderate in the first place.

if it was necessary, for us to go to the South Coast at all, to go there with a thing of the attributes of sovereignty. We are there neither as the governors of the country nor as a foreign power. We are simply the administrators, and the consequence is that the agents of the Governments are intruding there without giving us power of protest or of withdrawal. The French Vice-Consul at Zenda fairly divides authority with the British Vice-Consul. Neither is master.

finds many means of persuading the natives that the British flag is a pretty pig hunting which does not mean much to them than the equally pretty flag flies over the French Vice-Consulate. Temps admitted at the beginning of the week that it was the natives who had the tricolour—an unpleasant confession of all that we have lately had to say regarding the efforts of the French to acquire influence over the Somali people.

SUPREME COURT.
IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.
(Before the Hon. Mr Justice Russell.)
Tuesday, 25th Jan.

WALTER SERVICE v. HONGKONG AND MACAO GLASS COMPANY, \$1,000 and \$100.
A suit was heard to-day in which Walter Service, a former employee of the Hongkong and Macao Glass

Mr Wilkinson appeared for the plaintiff and stated that on the 6th November plaintiff had entered into a new agreement with the Company to work for another year and that on the 23rd Dec. he received his dismissal. The agreement rested on a verbal understanding between the plaintiff and the General Managers to Mr Bal...

Mr Deacon raised some technical objections to this letter, which he said did not constitute an 'agreement according to Statute of Frauds'.

His Lordship reserved this objection, and said he would hear the case on its merits.

Walter Service—I am a glass-maker. On the 5th November, 1885 I entered into an agreement in England with the defendants. I left England on the 19th N

I worked for them as a glass-cutter till the 31st December 1856. On the 6th November I was shown a letter addressed to the Superintendent, Mr Baldwin, with reference to a renewal of my agreement. I assented to the agreement on the terms mentioned conditionally. I continued to work for the defendants up to the 31st December of the 23rd December, Mr Baldwin gave me a letter to the effect that my services were not be required longer than the 31st

agreement. I afterwards saw Mr. Han-
ton and Mr. Shewan and told them that
a second agreement for another
months and that I intended to remain
have continuously refused to accept of
tion of dismissal. I have been receiving
a week. I have no prospect of receiv-
work in England for some time to come.
Cross-examined by Mr. Deacon—I
on the 19th November and therefore my
agreement expired on the 18th Novem-
ber 1886. When the letter of the 6th No-
ber was handed to me I did not accept

in inches, to be as 144 to 1.

